



# KENT FEDERATION of PHILATELIC SOCIETIES



"HELP FOR HEROES" - FOLLOWING THE COLLECTION AT "KENTPEX 2010" A DONATION WAS MADE TO AN OFFICER OF THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT BY OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION. (report inside)  
L to R: Maurice Flack, Colin Tobitt, Bill Hedley, Captain Gooderson, Ian Marshall.

No. 184

SEPTEMBER 2010

## BULLETIN

**K.F.P.S. Website - <http://kentphilately.weebly.com>**

# EDITORIAL

Peter O'Keefe

It is nice to get some 'feedback' regarding articles published in the Bulletin, critical, controversial or even complimentary - all being acceptable, and hopefully helpful in communicating and resolving any problems that arise. I often watch the TV programme "Grumpy Old Men", and mainly agree with the opinions expressed, but do find them rather amusing. They say patience is a virtue, and everyone is entitled to their views, but whether we consider them reasonable, or not, we are obliged to accept them. The majority usually have their way, but every now and again, a new suggestion is considered acceptable and is put into practice. The Federation 'Council meetings' (or by letter or e-mail) are for you to express your views, to test the merits of new practices and to generally discuss matters. If the Council Members agree, changes can be implemented, but as we are an 'amateur' set up, it does require a willing (and able) person to set things in motion. If you have a good idea let us all hear it, and provided someone can arrange it all should be well. Alan Buckman (Hon. Sec Deal P.S.) has written (see Letters to the Editor) with a number of comments, several of which may well be common to other clubs, but his statement "It is not surprising there is no KFPS rep for our club" is disappointing. Most societies have an ageing membership, but could this be the first sign of a breakdown in communication between clubs? There is another saying "Travel broadens the mind", and if philatelists /collectors do not meet and mix, they could easily become rather insular in their outlook. Am I being too pessimistic? I know the problems that will I feel affect us all, within say the next 10 years, but as we are failing to attract younger people to our hobby, what is the solution? How about dropping me a line with your thoughts? Think about it! There are already some people thinking about retiring from jobs in their societies - where are their successors? How many more clubs will close down? For something to happen, it needs someone to do it! We can not just expect to have things on a plate, WE have to do our share, and it seems to me that too few are willing to do anything!

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"KENTPEX" was a successful venture, enjoyed by all that I have spoken to, but it could have been better! Certain clubs members were noticeable by their absence! One does wonder why? Thanks to David Rennie for all his time consuming work in making the arrangements work so well, and to Ian Marshall for his able assistance, not forgetting Maurice Flack for co-ordinating the competitions, and arranging the judging and the display frames. Thanks to all who helped to set out the display frames, especially Colin Tobitt and Malcolm Roberts (from Essex), the tables and chairs on the Friday afternoon, and to those who stayed behind to clear up afterwards. Thanks also to the various stewards (Tunbridge Wells P.S. members) for their help on the day, the competitors in the various competitions, and also the 8 exhibitors for providing their displays. Finally to all who turned up to support the event - many travelling a good distance.

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After an interesting Summer, weather wise, its now back to our hobby with most clubs having a full programme arranged for YOUR enjoyment - Please do support them, whether the topic is what you are collecting or not. It will do you good to get out a bit more! If you have new members, talk to them, make them welcome, they might - in time - take over the jobs that you don't seem to want to do!

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# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2010/11

(If you are planning to visit any of the events listed below, you are advised to check that neither the date, nor the venue have changed, BEFORE you travel.

## 2010

SEP 4	Beckenham Stamp Fair	Azelia Hall, Croydon Rd
SEP 4	Middlesex Federation	Amersham, Chiltern Avenue.
SEP 5	Sevenoaks Fair	Bradbourne School,Sevenoaks
SEP 8	Royal National Hotel Fair	Russell Square,London.
SEP 11	Surrey Federation Fair	Croydon,URC Addiscome Grove
SEP 15/18	Autumn Stampex	Design Centre, Islington.
SEP 25	Orpington Stamp Fair	227 Poverest Rd,Petts Wood
SEP 25	T & T Auction	Tunbridge Wells
OCT 2	Beckenham Stamp Fair	Azelia Hall, Croydon Rd.
OCT 9	Sussex Federation Fair	Ardingly Showground,Sussex
OCT 13	Royal National Hotel Fair	Russell Square,London.
OCT 16	'HampeX' (Hants Fed.)	Wickham
OCT 17	Uckfield Stamp Fair	Ridgewood Village Hall.
OCT 30	KENT FEDERATION AUTUMN RALLY	East Malling Village Hall.
NOV 4/6	'Autumn Philatex'	Horticultural Hall, London
NOV 6	Beckenham Stamp Fair	Azelia Hall, Croydon Rd
NOV 13	Maidstone Stamp Fair	Grove Green Comm. Maidstone
NOV 13	Orpington Stamp Fair	227 Poverest Rd,Petts Wood
NOV 17	Royal National Hotel Fair	Russell Square, London.
NOV 21	Sevenoaks Fair	Bradbourne School,Sevenoaks
NOV 27	T & T Auction	Tunbridge Wells
DEC 4	Beckenham Stamp Fair	Azelia Hall, Croydon Rd.
DEC 15	Royal National Hotel Fair	Russell Square, London.

## 2011

FEB 20	Sevenoaks Stamp Fair	Knole Acad-Bradbourn School
MAR 12	KENT FEDERATION SPRING RALLY	Mascalls School,Paddock Wod
MAY 15	Sevenoaks Stamp Fair	Knole Acad-Bradbourn School
JUN 25	KENT FEDERATION DAY & AGM	Folkestone (Cinque Ports)
JUL 2	"MIDPEX"	Leamington Spa (New venue)
SEP 4	Sevenoaks Stamp Fair	Knole Acad-Bradbourn School
SEP 24	KENT FEDERATION AUTUMN RALLY	Gravesend & District S.C.
NOV 20	Sevenoaks Stamp Fair	Knole Acad-Bradbourn School

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## THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR NEWS IN THE NEXT ISSUE (February)

IS THE 10th JANUARY 2011.Do please put a note in your Diary and drop me a line in good time to ensure that YOUR Society gets a mention - remind your PRESS OFFICER at your society meetings.

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## ADVANCE NOTICE OF FUTURE KENT FEDERATION EVENTS

Host Societies are urgently needed for all three RALLIES in 2012 SPRING, FEDERATION DAY and AUTUMN.(Olympic year !) How about YOUR Society giving it a go ? If necessary, you could perhaps combine with a nearby society and act as joint hosts ! PLEASE give this serious thought, how long is it since your club last hosted a FED event ? The MALLING S/C are hosting the AUTUMN RALLY on 28th September 2013. Please contact the Federation Hon.Secretary

E&OE

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MIDPEX in 2011,will be at a NEW VENUE,THE WARWICKSHIRE EXHIBITION CENTRE,just south of Leamington Spa on SATURDAY,2nd JULY, so hope fully no one will book this date for an event.There is double the space at the new venue compared to last year. PJOK

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# FEDERATION DAY & "KENTPEX 2010" 10/7/10

Congratulations to the Kent Federation and to the Royal Tunbridge wells Philatelic Society for hosting this successful event at the TONBRIDGE SCHOOL, which proved to be a superb venue for "KENTPEX" incorporating our contribution to the "FESTIVAL OF STAMPS 2010". Amongst the guests were the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the 'Association of British Philatelic Societies', John Baron who addressed the Kent Federation Council meeting, outlining the way the ABPS is trying to work alongside all the UK Federations. Later Phil Kenton, Chairman of the ABPS Council also looked in. President of The Royal Philatelic Society, London, Alan Moorcroft, and the Secretary of the 'Royal', Christine Earle gave a 'PowerPoint' talk for their members and others who attended an informal meeting. The 'British Airmail Society' (BAMS) also held a meeting at which Brian Asquith gave an excellent display.

This was the first occasion on which the Kent Federation held a 32 page competition; there were eleven entries with some first class material on show. The judges were Francis Kiddle (Hampshire Fedn) for the 32 pagers, Brian Sole and Brian Asquith (both Surrey Fed) for the 8 and 16 page competitions: all entries were pre-judged at the 'Royal'!

The winner of the 32 page 'Open Class' competition was John Crowe (Sevenoaks) with his entry "The Trail Blazers - Pioneer Flight on the England - Australian Routes", scoring a very creditable 90 pts and he was presented with the BPMA TROPHY (British Postal Museum Archive) - well done John. Full results are later in this issue. Our thanks to the Judges, Francis Kiddle, Brian Asquith and Brian Sole, to John Baron and Phil Kenton, Alan Moorcroft and Christine Earle for joining us on the day. Also many thanks to all who contributed to the collection "Help for Heroes" - a worthy cause.

Maurice Flack.

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## THE LINGLEY SHIELD 2010.

The award this year was made to NIGELLA KENT a stalwart of the Maidstone & Mid Kent Philatelic Society for her outstanding contribution to her Society and for support of the Kent Federation.

Nigella was the successful Packet Sec. of the Society for 27 years, and President for five years 1999 to 2004. She has hosted the 'Summer meetings' of the Society at her home for 17 years, providing refreshments and is a willing participant at our 'Members Evenings'.

She is also a representative of this club on visits to other clubs displaying with enthusiasm. She has been a regular attender at Federation Council meetings as one of our Delegates since 1999. Her main collecting interests being in the South Atlantic. She is also a member of the Kent Postal History Group.

Alongside is a photograph of her receiving the Shield from the Federation's new President, Bill Hedley at the Council Meeting at Kentpex.



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# ITS NICE BEING IMPORTANT !

Sometime when you feel quite important  
 Sometime when your ego is in bloom,  
 Sometime when you take it for granted  
 You are the most qualified man in the room.

Sometime when you feel that your going  
 Will leave an unfillable hole,  
 Just try this simple experiment  
 And see how it humbles your soul

Take a bucket and fill it with water,  
 Put your hands in it up to your wrists,  
 Take them out and the hole that remains  
 Is the measure of how you'll be missed

You may splash as you like when you enter,  
 You can stir up the waters galore,  
 But stop and you'll find in a minute  
 It looks just the same as before.

The moral of this is quite simple,  
 Just do the best that you can,  
 Be proud of yourself, but remember,  
 There is no indispensable man ....

## AUTUMN RALLY COMPETITIONS

THE FEDERATION has three competitions at East Malling at the Autumn Rally two of eight pages Aerophilately and Thematic and one of 16 pages for Postal History. Maurice Flack will need to be advised of the title of your club entry or your own entry by Sunday, October 24 (Telephone message will suffice, but let him also know your tele.no.so he can contact you if necessary).His no. 01634-714584

## NEW 'POST & GO' STAMPS !

I wonder how many of

you are aware of the 'Post & Go' machine produced 'stamps' which the Royal Mail commenced issuing at many main Post Offices a year or so ago ? I get the impression, that this 'new fangled idea' has not yet caught on with the general public. Few people seem to have even realised that (for instance at Maidstone) the machine in the wall, just inside the main office can be used, even with a credit card, to obtain 'stamps' for use on mail to any address in the world. Well at long last they have decided that coloured illustrations might prove more attractive, and from September 17th you will be able to obtain, at least 1st class face value stamps, from these machines. They will offer you the opportunity to acquire six different illustrations of British birds as shown below and although the birds are not named, they show a blue tit, a house sparrow, a goldfinch, a wood pigeon, a robin and a starling. Whether you can select just one or have to buy a set is not clear

but a machine will be at 'Stampex' and you will be able to obtain the 'stamps', a 1st day cover etc there. 1st class rate is 41p so the set costs £2.46, plus cost of the envelope



## PUZZLED ?

E-mails are letters, after all, more lasting than phone calls, even if many of them r 2 cursory 4 u.

## THE RETIRING PRESIDENT WELCOMES THE NEW PRESIDENT

Grahamme Boutle shakes hands with new President Bill Hedley following his taking over at the A.G.M. at Kentpex in July.



A WHO'S WHO  
of  
Bill Hedley  
is on Page 8

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### YOUR SOCIETY COULD HOST A FEDERATION RALLY !

If your club wishes to improve its finances, hosting a Rally can be rewarding, and could ensure that you don't have to increase your subscription rates perhaps for a year or two. It does require a team effort and it can be time consuming, but it can also be well worth the effort. Other societies, both large, medium and even small have succeeded - so YOU could do it. Perhaps you might join with a neighbouring club and organise it as a joint venture ! If you need any guidance contact the Fed.Hon.Sec.-there is a printed listing of suggested procedures available. It seems that at present we have no takers for 2012, although the Federation will probably need to host 'Federation Day' that Summer. It leaves both the Spring and Autumn rallies, plus the Spring 2013 event needing hosts. Why not get your club to host an event ? Get your club committee to consider it ! Raise the matter at your A.G.M. and you will find it can help your financial position, provided that it is well planned and gets your members full support. Why leave it to other clubs every time - at least offer to do it once in a while! When, if at all, did YOUR society last host such an event ?

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#### A PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Sheffield PS will be hosting the ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition at the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th May 2011.

Further details on [www.sheffield2011.org.uk](http://www.sheffield2011.org.uk)

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## WHO'S WHO !

At the A.G.M. at Tonbridge in July, we made a double change, a new President, Bill Hedley and a new Hon. Secretary, Ian Marshall, both members of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Philatelic Society. Here is a brief pen picture and both are featured on the front cover.

### E.W.L. HEDLEY, FRPSL

A career civil servant, now retired, who has been a member of the Royal Tunbridge Wells P.S. for 20 years and was President of the Society from 2001 to 2004. Having been a collector as a schoolboy Bill was re-introduced to philately by his children (whose interests have naturally moved on since then!) He decided at an early stage not to collect Queen's Heads or islands and - as a French & German speaker - to concentrate on European interests. Developed a focus on Austria and, in particular, Hungary. He has run a twice yearly auction for the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain since 2002 and was President of that Society from 2008 to 2010. Bill is a member of the Hungarian Scientific Institute for Philatelic Research (MAFITT) and of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Ungarn He is also a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London and was recently appointed as Curator of its museum and archive.

He has exhibited Hungarian Postal History illustrated through postal services in Pozsony (Bratislava) at the International Stamp Fair at Sindelfingen in 2008 and at the London International Exhibition in May 2010, where the exhibit was awarded a Large Vermeil medal with a clear instruction from the judges to take it up to eight frames (128 pages!). Bill is very grateful to the Kent Federation for encouragement received, particularly from Maurice Flack, without which this would probably not have been achieved. Bill is married to Rae, a doctor, and they have two sons. In addition to philately Bill is interested in history and music, and is an occasional golfer and swimmer.

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### I.B. MARSHALL

Ian has collected stamps since he was a wee boy, following in the footsteps of his father, and frequently spent his pocket money on stamps, ending up at 17 as quite a keen young collector. However, girls and mortgages combined to put stamps in the freezer for 25 years and he only came back to the hobby in his forties. His love has always been GB although I have a nice general Common wealth collection up to the late 50's which I enjoy supplementing from club packets. I retired 6 years ago having spent most of my career as a company secretary and have been able to spend rather more time since then on trying to become a philatelist ! I have specialised in G.B. pre-stamp and line engraved, with a Scottish bias given that I hail from North of the border (or North Britain as many of the early covers quaintly describe Scotland !) and am happy to take my displays "A Miscellany of early GB" and "Scottish Postal History to 1880" to any interested societies. I am President of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Philatelic Society and a member of the Royal, in London.

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Editors note: Bill omitted to mention that he was for five years also Hon. Secretary of the RTWPS, so he is familiar with the tasks involved in that job. PJOK

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FORTHCOMING KENT FEDERATION SEMINARS  
BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING SEMINARS WILL BE HELD AT THE  
WAINSCOTT MEMORIAL HALL, HOLLY ROAD, WAINSCOTT,  
NEAR ROCHESTER, KENT, ME2 4LG

SATURDAY, 2nd OCTOBER 2010



'PERFINS'

You have probably seen 'perfinned' stamps in the club packet, or dealers stock books, but do you know the reasons for their issue? How is a 'Perfin' made ?, why are they sometimes inverted ? which firms, or businesses used them ?, when were they first used ?

Come along and find out ALL about them - four experts from the PERFIN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN will explain all you need to know There will be something like 350 pages showing why perfins are collectable, and should not be thrown away as 'damaged' - YOU will be impressed with this aspect of stamp collecting (it includes Postal History AND Postal Stationery, plus British, Foreign and Commonwealth stamps. Please let Maurice Flack known that you will attend, so that he can arrange that enough buffet food is available. Each Affiliated Society Hon.Secretary has application forms with further information, but you can still attend without one, providing Maurice is advised in good time.

SATURDAY, 20th NOVEMBER 2010

At the same venue. **MILITARY MAILS**

Given by members of the FORCES POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY, this will give you an insight into Soldiers (plus Sailors & Airmen) Mail to and from the UK during various conflicts and also post war, showing the many different usages of mail, both personal and Official. Prisoner of War mail, Airgraphs, Honour envelopes, Censor markings, Air letters, Ships mail and much more. Same arrangements as for the October seminar. Come along and learn all about this side of the hobby.

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A £10 charge is made, towards the hiring of the venue, and provision of ample refreshments, coffee or tea etc. There is FREE car parking !

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**FURTHER SEMINARS** It is hoped to arrange more Seminars next year, possibly on Cinderella material, Crash Mail, and King George VI. Fuller details will be announced when the dates and speakers are confirmed. If there are any topics that you feel would be attractive, please let Maurice know.

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**THANKS TO** the Essex, Middlesex and Sussex Federations for their Journals, and to the Deal,Sevenoaks,Sidcup,Swale and Royal Tunbridge Wells societies for copies of their Newsletters,also to Michael Thompson for the printing of this issue, and Ian Marshall and David Rennie for the photographs. PJOK.

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# A LISTING OF THE COMPETITIONS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS

2011            The 8 page 'Society' entries

<u>SPRING RALLY</u>	<u>FEDERATION DAY</u>	<u>AUTUMN RALLY</u>
Traditional	Postal History Cinderella	<u>Aerophilatelic</u> Thematic

2011            The 16 page 'Individual members' entries

Thematic	Aerophilatelic	Traditional
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2012            The 8 page competitions will be similar to those in 2011  
The 16 page competitions will be as follows:

Cinderella	Social Philately	Postal History
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The reason only one 8 page competition is planned for the Spring Rally each year, is so that when Kent is hosting 'The Dawes Cup' competitions, we will have sufficient display space available. It might also be utilised for other competitions such as the "Inter-Federation 32 page which comes round every two years. The next Dawes Cup competition will be hosted by the Surrey Federation in the Spring of 2011, and Kent are due to host the Dawes Cup next in 2012. Kent will need to provide five by 16 page entries next Spring, with no more than two in one of the categories, which are Aerophilately, Traditional, Postal History, Cinderella and Thematic. If YOU wish to submit an entry, please contact Maurice Flack ASAP and be prepared to let him have your entry towards the end of 2010. The 32 page Inter-Federation competition is due to be held early next year, and Kent need to find three suitable entries; again contact Maurice for further information and dates required.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Due to falling support by club members it has been suggested that the Federation might have to reduce the number of Rallies held to two a year instead of the present three. If this were to happen one problem would be how the competitions would need rescheduling. Maurice has suggested holding ALL five 8 page competitions at one Rally, and three 16 pages competitions at the other Rally as shown above, in alternate years. Such changes might cause space display problems and possibly more time might be required for the Judging. Also would we have to find somewhere else to show The Dawes Cup or Inter-Fed entries ? PJOK.

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## HELP FOR HEROES.

At the Federation Day "KENTPEX 2010" a collection was taken for "HELP FOR HEROES". Our photograph on the front cover shows newly elected Kent Federation President Bill Hedley presenting a cheque for £230.00. to Captain Gooderson, Adjutant of the Parachute Regiment. The presentation was made at the Royal School of Military Engineers Museum at Chatham a few days after 'Kentpex'. Our thanks to all who contributed. Also in the picture are, from left to right Maurice Flack, Colin Tobitt and far right, Ian Marshall (President of Royal Tunbridge Wells P.S. who is also the Federation new Hon. Secretary).

\*\*\*\*\*

# COMPETITION RESULTS - FEDERATION DAY

## THE W.A.PAGE POSTAL HISTORY TROPHY      8 pages, 9 entries

1st	LEWISHAM	Tristan da Cunha World War II	91	points
2nd	Cinque Ports	Canadian Packet Mail to GB 1868/69	90	"
3rd	Malling	Postal History of Lundy to 1930	84	"

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## THE CINDERELLA TROPHY      8 pages 5 entries

1st	MALLING	Talylllyn Railway - The Railway Letter Service 1957	85	points
2nd	Maidstone	Pigeon Post	75	"
3rd	Bromley & Beck.	British Postal Orders Overseas	74	"

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## THE SOCIAL PHILATELY COMPETITION      16 pages 4 entries

1st	CHRISTINE BAKER (Cinque Ports)	"Colonial Life"	81	points
2nd	Grahamme Boutle (Bromley & Beckenham)	Advertising in the Oil Industry	78	"
3rd	Michael Thompson (Malling)	The Village of Rolvenden, in Kent.	72	"

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## THE "OPEN CLASS" COMPETITION      32 pages 11 entries

(The winner was awarded the BPMA Trophy for keeps)

1st	JOHN CROWE (Sevenoaks)	The Trail Blazers - Pioneer Flights of the England-Australian Routes	90	points
2nd	Bill Hedley (Royal Tunbridge Wells)	Hungarian Postal History to 1850 illustrated through the Postal Service of Pozsony	89	"
3rd	Ian Marshall (Royal Tunbridge Wells)	The 1840 and 1841 Issues of GB	87	"

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Thanks to all competitors for the high standard of the entries, especially in the 32 pages competition. MCF.  
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## SOCIETY NEWS

Five societies missed the Post for this issue !

Someone failed to make a note in a diary. Perhaps someone might remind



them about the next cut-off date ? It's the 10th JANUARY 2011 !

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# Letters to the Editor (1)

Deal,  
23rd August 2010



Dear Peter,

Enclosed is our Newsletter review of last year, I would like to comment on the editorial of the May issue. As with most societies there are only ever a few people willing to do things but I have persuaded some to become visiting speakers, to this side of the Medway only. This relies on the availability of two key busy people to provide lifts. Our membership is definitely on the senior side. Conversely our speaker pool is just as limited because they are not willing to travel the distance to us. It is not surprising there is no KFPS rep for our club.

I came along to KENTPEX but due to the 1½ hour journey time from Deal I missed the Council meeting. I also sent in our 10/11 programme for (inclusion) in the display, but maybe I sent it to the wrong person because it was not on the board.

As a busy person, not retired, with other interests, e-mail is much preferred but in Philately it seems people are at least 15 years behind the times. It makes communication more difficult than it need be. Reminders about KFPS activities/events/deadlines would be extremely useful but only practical if e-mail was adopted.

Yours sincerely,  
Alan Buckman.

Hon. Secretary, Deal Philatelic Society

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Editor's Note: Thanks Alan, I hope that you did not travel alone its so much better to have someone to talk to on such a journey, and it makes it seem shorter. Well done for persuading members to show their collections to other clubs, its good that collectors will show their favourite items to an audience - many are happy to show it on a one to one basis, but feel too shy to stand up and speak, some even to their own club ! Giving a show does force you to ensure you know about your display, that it is neat, and tidy. With regard to your comments on KFPS activities, I am one of those 'Ancient Brits' not on the Internet, but most of the Federation Officers are, and I hope that they will note your e-mail address (see inside front cover), however if clubs include a copy of the Bulletin in their 'Exchange Packets', perhaps more members would take note of the activities, events and deadlines. It is however expected that ALL club secretaries will ensure that their members know what is going on, especially in their area. PJOK.

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Please complete and forward to: The Editor. K.F.P.S. Bulletin. 8 Stainer Road. Tonbridge. TN10 4DR	

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (2)

Harpenden, Herts.  
12th June 2010



Dear Peter,

Reading through the May issue I sense a certain degree of depression, which is a great pity but rather understandable.

Starting at page three, with your editorial, you expressed disappointment at the representation of clubs at Council meetings, that members of some clubs do not seem to even attend a Federation Rally, plus the lack of news being submitted from some clubs. In fact in the "End of Term Report" by the President on page 5, he implies that the Federation Rallies may have to drop from three to two due to lack of support. He continues by referring to the lack of 'young blood' and lower attendances at club meetings.

None of this is unique to Kent. If one looks into the June issue of "ABPS News", the centre pages 26 and 27 show people from all over the Country. Where are the 20, 30 and 40 year olds? Are there really so many more activities and interests compared with my younger years? I joined the Eltham Philatelic Society in my late 20's, then having decided to limit my collecting interests I moved on to specialist societies, then through a friendly contact I was introduced to membership of the Royal Philatelic Society and to Congress, where one year in Llandudno, I was invited to join the Executive of Congress, which later became the B.P.F. and then the A.B.P.S.

I have served in one capacity or another in all these organisations and thoroughly enjoyed my journey through life with philately. Neither other interests or family life have suffered during this time. In fact my wife thoroughly enjoys participating with me in the social activities of our hobby and meeting with other wives. Dare I add that I can remember when each Federation Rally included an organised luncheon, usually at a nearby hotel! On page 11 you produce some statistics on attendance at Beckenham in March, which speak for themselves. The one reason you omitted was economics. I know in my present Society that the majority of members consider themselves to be rather 'hard up'. Their only source of new items are cheap material from the 'Exchange Packet' and is the main reason for their membership, and I live in what is reported to be a reasonably affluent area!

I wish I had an answer to all this but our hobby needs a real shot in the arm and whoever comes up with some good ideas will be a real saviour.

May I also comment on the page 6 article "Guest Speaker At A Club" This should be compulsory reading for every Society Secretary.

So many clubs have a great deal to learn about organising visitors and hospitality. Philately is in fact very lucky because it is the only voluntary organisational field where visiting speakers are not paid a fee of anything from £25 to £50, and sometimes plus expenses!

For how long can we continue this way with the increasing cost of fuel and travel? This could take us on to subscriptions, but I will not pursue that one. The speaker who demanded his costs may well not be the first to act this way in the future.

May I close with expressing my great regret at the passing of Fred French, I only hope that the future will produce more people like him - we badly need them.

Best regards,

Neil M. Russell, FRPSL, FBSAP.

Hon Life Member - Eltham & Woolwich P.S.

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# SOME NEW ISSUES TO LOOK OUT FOR.

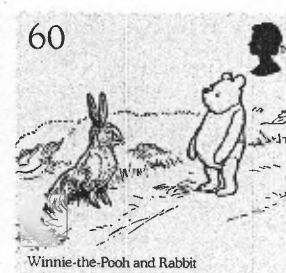
On 12th October, 'POOH BEAR' is featured on a set of 6 stamps, in a yellowish colouring, maybe a palish honey colour ?) This issue is in the EUROPA theme, on Childrens Books, The cost being £4.11 for the basic set. There is a miniature sheet of four different stamps, with a 1st class, a 60p, an 88p and the 97p, costing £2.86. (say £7 for the lot ! All four of the stamps on the miniature sheet



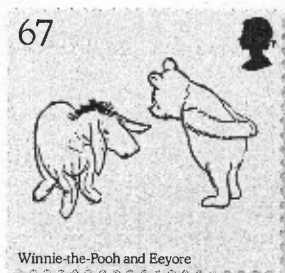
1st  
Winnie-the-Pooh and Christopher Robin  
First-class inland letter rate:  
The friends Pooh, Piglet and Christopher Robin



58  
Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet  
58p basic rate worldwide:  
Pooh and Piglet walk into the wind on their way to Kanga's



60  
Winnie-the-Pooh and Rabbit  
60p, Europe up to 20g:  
Pooh informs Rabbit about the 'Exposition to the North Pole'



67  
Winnie-the-Pooh and Eeyore  
67p basic airmail rate up to 20g:  
Pooh sings 'Cottleston Pie' to Eeyore



88  
Winnie-the-Pooh and Friends  
88p, Europe up to 40g:  
Pooh is joined by Rabbit, Kanga, Roo, Owl and Piglet for a party



97  
Winnie-the-Pooh and Tigger  
97p, world airmail up to 20g:  
Pooh discovers that Tiggers don't like honey

are slightly smaller than the basic set, but - why ? The issue is linked to the 'Europa' theme so one wonders why only the 1st class stamps have the word 'Europa' on them and why its in such small print. The Queen's head is in red with the rest of the design in black. The stamps are printed by Lithography by Cartor Security Printing but the Presentation Pack is printed by Walsall Security Printers and a set of 11 postcards (it is assumed that one card shows the mini sheet complete) and a first day envelope, have been printed by the Fulmar Colour Printing Co. Ltd.

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## NEW SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS

On October 26th the Royal Mail are issuing two more 'special' stamps, this time for 'Special Delivery' items, up to 100 grams (cost £5.05) and up to 500 grams (costing £5.50). These are for 'Guaranteed Delivery' before 1pm next day. They are 'Gravure' printed with colours of Grey and Blue, or Blue & Grey respectively. (They are somewhat similar to the two 'Recorded Delivery' stamps issued a few months ago) They are self adhesive and have Die cut simulated perforations. If you want one of each unused it will cost you £10.55. so start saving your pocket money up now. Another the Machin collector will no doubt need to have !



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**NOTE:** On 12th October, another Olympic Stamp Book is due to be issued, having Football and Cycling (BMX bikes) - This is book no 4 in a series. "Lest We Forget" - Poppy stamps 3 x 1st class are being re-issued on 28th October - one assumes that these will be the same as were issued last year, but who knows, they might have a minor difference.

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